

III. REMARKS

Claim 7 has been amended as requested. It is therefore submitted it is no longer objectionable.

As previously pointed out, Kobayashi mainly deals with a way to utilize artificially created erasures in an iterative decoding procedure. It mentions in passing (e.g. abstract) that the inner coder can be replaced (not combined with) with a digital modulator, but otherwise Kobayashi has pays only limited attention to the selection of particular codes. If one looks at Kobayashi's claims, one sees that they cover exclusively the receiving and decoding end of a connection. The designer of a receiver can hardly pay any attention to what selection of codes should be used because he can only conform the receiver to what selections have been made for the transmitting device.

It is thus very natural that Kobayashi does not contain any motivation for the person skilled in the art to look for improvements in the coding scheme, for example, by paying more attention to the nature of an inner code. Thus, it is not obvious to combine Kobayashi with Darmon.

It is respectfully submitted that contrary to the Examiner's statements, Kobayashi fails to anticipate selecting a recursive code as the inner code. Mentioning a "digital modulator" as an alternative to the inner coder does not contain any suggestion about recursivity because a large majority of digital modulation methods represent memoryless modulation and thus have absolutely nothing to do with recursivity.

In his decoding schemes, Kobayashi suggests using hard decision symbols and "erasures" as feedback. This is different than using "extrinsic information" as in the turbo decoding schemes

of the present invention, and it leads the skilled person further away from using a recursive inner code because a recursive inner code would explicitly point away from a turbo decoding scheme such as in the present invention.

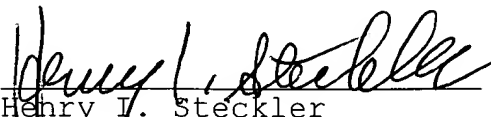
Thus even if the references are somehow combined, the result is not the present invention. Hence the rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 10, 12, and 13-14 under 35 USC 103 on these references should be withdrawn.

Similarly, Monogioudis fails to disclose the above features. Thus the rejection of claims 7-9 should be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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